

26th March 2024

Death

"A kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies ... but produces many seeds."

Bible, John 12:36

Tuesday of Holy Week – John 12:20-36

*This week is about people in the Holy Week narratives
in whom we might recognise ourselves.*

Mrs Garrity was in the staffroom, sharing with her colleagues what had happened in "conversation time" with her class that morning. It had begun with a story from Brian about the death of his goldfish over the weekend, then slid into the death of a family cat *and* a road-accident in *East Enders*, moved into feelings about the funeral of the Queen, and ended with the kids hearing about the death of Emily's gran. "Goodness," said one of Mrs Garrity's colleagues. "There's no way I would have gone there with *my* kids." Not everyone agreed, but for the rest of break-time there was a conversation about death that no one had shared in the staffroom before.

'Can we talk about death?' they asked. 'Of course,' was the reply.

'What's death?' they asked. 'It comes to us all,' was the reply.

'Are you sure?' they asked. 'Death's as certain as taxes,' was the reply.

'Why should that be?' they asked. 'Because life is limited,' was the reply.

'Limited by what?' they asked. 'By time,' was the reply.

'Does time run out for everyone?' they asked. 'For everyone,' was the reply.

'Is that all?' they asked. 'All of what?' was the reply.

'All of life when time's finished?' they asked. 'I don't think so,' was the reply.

'Is death not the end, then?' they asked. 'I hope not,' was the reply.

'What happens after death, then?' they asked. 'You live,' was the reply.

'Live where?' they asked. 'In love,' was the reply.

'Doesn't love die?' they asked. 'Never, ever,' was the reply.

'Where does love go on?' they asked. 'In you,' was the reply.

'Now?' they asked. 'And forever,' was the reply.

'And when I die?' they asked. 'Love never dies,' was the reply.

'Will I live on in love?' they asked. 'For ever,' was the reply.

'Is that eternity?' they asked. 'I think so,' was the reply.

'Really?' they asked. 'I hope so,' was the reply.

*Adapted from "Mrs Garrity's Monday Morning" and "Death?" from
'A Blessing to Follow' by Tom Gordon – www.ionabooks.com*

A prayer for today

Lord, can I be part of the "many seeds" of love when I die? I hope so! Amen

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